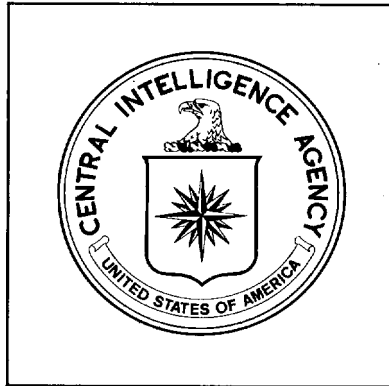


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# STAFF NOTES:

## Middle East Africa South Asia

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125

No. 0688/75  
June 9, 1975

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## MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Middle East - Africa Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

### CONTENTS

Bangladesh: Party Structure Established . . . . 1

June 9, 1975

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Bangladesh

*Party Structure Established*

1 President Mujibur Rahman last weekend announced  
the organizational structure of Bangladesh's single  
party and named its key officials. This action com-  
2 pletes the reordering of the political system that  
Mujib launched last January when he shifted to an  
authoritarian presidential system. The new party  
organization further focuses personal responsibility  
on Mujib for his government's failures and successes.

1 Mujib has appointed relatives and long-time  
political associates to leadership posts at every  
level of the party. The 15-man executive committee,  
headed by Mujib himself and drawn entirely from leaders  
of his old Awami League, will be the party's main  
policy-making body. It will oversee daily party  
business and is empowered to approve membership in  
lower-level committees. A 115-member central com-  
mittee includes senior civil servants, leaders of the  
armed services and other security groups, and some  
members of former opposition parties. It will conduct  
party business between meetings of the party council,  
a plenary body to be composed of the executive,  
central and district committees and required to meet  
2 only twice every five years. Five special interest  
fronts--for peasants, labor, women, youth, and students--  
are each headed by former Awami League stalwarts.

2 Mujib's party appointments underscore his deter-  
mination to continue his close personal control over  
his party and government and to restrict dissent from  
below. While party membership is theoretically open  
to any citizen over 18, prospects for the inclusion  
of significant numbers of former opposition party  
leaders appear dim.

2 Although the new appointments do not change the  
composition of the country's political establishment,  
most Bengalees appear willing to reserve judgment on

(Continued)

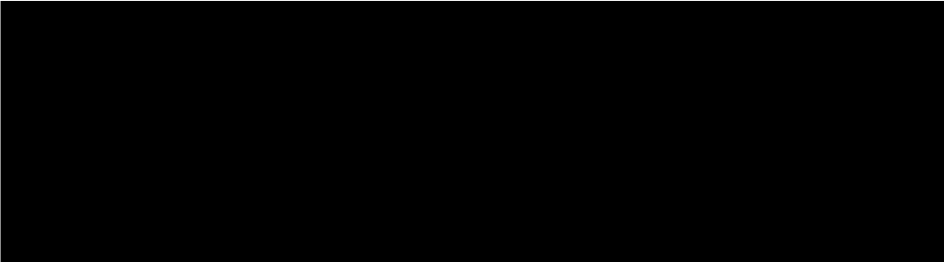
June 9, 1975

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2 | Mujib's performance as president for a while longer.  
Disgruntled members of the military and civil service,  
who pose the greatest potential threat to Mujib's  
continued rule, are probably pleased that they are  
represented on the central committee. (CONFIDENTIAL)



June 9, 1975

2

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